

separating the [shielding polymer] polymeric material from the wool.

4. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is a synthetic polymer.

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a 2 5. (Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is a polyhydric alcohol (polyol).

6. (Amended) A process according to claim 5, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, and copolymers of polyvinyl alcohols.

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 4, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of copolymers of acrylonitrile, acrylic acid, meta-acrylic acid and esters of these acids.

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b 9. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is a naturally occurring polymer.

10. (Amended) A process according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is a cellulosic derivative[s].

11. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is a continuous filament [or film].

a 4 13. (Amended) A process according to [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 12], wherein the [polymer filament (or film)] polymeric material is wound or spun together with a core or the wool yarn in a helicoidal fashion.

a 5 16. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the separation is effected by dissolving the [polymer] polymeric material in a solvent.

18. (Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein the process is carried out at a temperature [in the] range between 75-95°C.

20. (Amended) A process according to [any of the claims 1 to 19] claim 2, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is removed from the wool prior to dyeing, thereby leaving a fabric made essentially solely of wool.

21. (Amended) A process according to [any of the claims 1 to 19] claim 2, wherein the [polymer] polymeric material is removed from the wool after the dyeing step, thereby leaving a fabric made essentially solely of wool.

22. (Amended) A woven textile article, garment or a cloth, whenever made by the process [of any one of claims 1 to 21] disclosed in claim 1.

25. (Amended) A yarn as claimed in claim 23 [or 24], wherein the polymeric filament is made essentially of PVA.

26. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymeric material is a film.

#### Response

The claimed invention has been amended by a preliminary amendment filed with the original application. These amendments were not made for any patentability reasons or purposes.

In view of the above remarks, applicants respectfully request the claims be allowed since the claims are in condition for allowance.